

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-30 are presently pending, of which Claims 1-14, 22, and 30 are withdrawn from consideration.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph**

The Examiner rejected Claims 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. More particularly, the Examiner states that "[w]hile the change in dependance of claims 28 and 29 is noted, the language 'first cured portion' and 'second cured portion' remains nevertheless without antecedent basis from claim 23".

Independent Claim 23 has been amended to recite "a first cured portion" and "a second cured portion" to provide antecedent basis for the same in dependent Claims 28 and 29.

Accordingly, this rejection is believed to be overcome.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

The Examiner rejected Claims 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by International Publication WO 97/30604 (the '604 Publication).

Independent Claim 15 has been amended to recite that the pattern includes "a first cured portion cured to a first amount and a second cured portion cured to a second amount, said first amount being sufficiently different than the second amount to result in a visible discontinuity on the surface of the structure".

The '604 Publication discloses a method of producing a tobacco conveyor belt by providing a layer of light curable resin material in fluid form on a support, illuminating the layer of material through a mask that is selectively transparent to the illumination so as to effect at

least partial curing of the material of the layer corresponding with the transparent resins of the mask, removing uncured material, and effecting a full cure of the residual material.

It is respectfully submitted that the '604 Publication does not teach all the limitations of Claim 15, which requires a first cured portion and a second cured portion which are cured to different amounts to result in a visible discontinuity on the surface of the structure. In contrast, uncured areas in the '604 Publication are "washed" out and a portion of the resin is removed. A full cure of the residual material is effected.

Claim 15 also includes the limitation that the radiation curable material is cured in the process of forming the pattern in the material. The pattern includes a first cured portion cured to a first amount and a second cured portion cured to a second amount. The first amount is sufficiently different than the second amount to result in a visible discontinuity or pattern on the surface of the structure. It is respectfully submitted that this concept is not disclosed in the '604 Publication.

Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 20, 21, and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '604 Publication.

Claims 20 and 21 depend from Claim 15, which is believed to be patentable over the '604 Publication for the reasons set forth above.

Independent Claim 23 has been amended to include the limitation that the discernible pattern includes a first cured portion cured to a first amount and a second cured portion cured to a second amount.

As discussed above, it is respectfully submitted that this concept is not disclosed in the '604 Publication. Accordingly, the rejection is believed to be overcome.

Allowable Claims

The Examiner allowed Claim 27 and noted that Claims 28 and 29 "would be allowable pending an obviation of the 112 rejection thereagainst".

The Examiner is thanked for these allowances.

Information Disclosure Statement

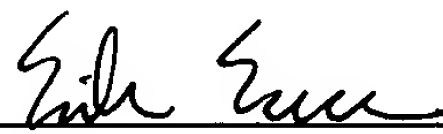
An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is being filed concurrently herewith. Entry of the IDS is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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